

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted after final rejection under 37 CFR 1.116 because Applicants believe that all claims now presented are in condition for allowance. In any event entry of this amendment will place the application in better form for appeal. No new matter has been added and no new issues have been raised. Finally Applicants submitted this amendment in response to points raised by the Examiner in the last office action and Applicants could not have filed their response at an earlier date.

Applicants wish to thank Examiner Steadman for granting a telephone interview with the undersigned on the morning of 28 March 2007. During the interview the undersigned asked Examiner Steadman if method claims limited to the production of L-amino acids according to the present application using an amino acid-producing microorganism strain transformed with the vector pVWEX1pyc would be allowable since the Examiner has already indicated that he has allowed claims 107 and 108 directed to the vector pVWEX1pyc and to a bacterium comprising the vector. Examiner Steadman indicated that claims 122 through 124 as now presented would be allowable for the same reasons that claims 107 and 108 have already been allowed so long as the Applicants have antecedent basis in the specification for the claims.

Applicants now refer to the substitute specification and point to antecedent basis for claims 122 through 124 on page 7, line 13 to page 8, line 19. Antecedent basis for the term "amino

acid producing microorganism strain" may be found on page 7, lines 16 and 17. Antecedent basis for the production of an amino acid of the aspartate and/or glutamate type may be found in the substitute specification on page 1, lines 5 to 9. Antecedent basis for the production of the specific amino acids according to claim 124 may be found in Examples 4,5 and 6 on pages 17 through 26 of the substitute specification. Thus claims 107, 108 and 122 through 124 are now in this application and are again presented for examination.

Now that all method claims are limited to using the Applicants' new vector pVWEX1pyc, it is believed that all claims now in this application are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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